

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /073 W

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R 101748Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8107

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02058

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ANC LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION; BRITISH CONSULTATIONS WITH AFRICANS

1. AS OF FEBRUARY 7, BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE ANY REPORTS OF ANC LEADERS' DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE LAST WEEK. HEAD OF FCO RHODESIA DEPARTMENT, BYATT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT FCO ASSUMES DISCUSSIONS DEALT PRIMARILY WITH CEASE-FIRE AND TIMING AND VENUE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. ON CEASE-FIRE, BYATT SAID, GUERRILLA INCIDENTS CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH ON GREATLY REDUCED SCALE. MAIN PROBLEM IS INABILITY OF ZANU LEADERS TO CONTROL ALL OF THE FACTIONS AMONG THEIR GUERRILLA GROUPS. FOR THEIR PART, LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS UNHAPPY WITH SMITH'S FAILURE TO RELEASE POLITICAL DETAINEES AND RESTRICTEES. ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD HAVE BEEN RELEASED, ALL OF WHOM ARE PROMINENT MOVEMENT LEADERS. LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS ALSO BELIEVE THEY HAD PROMISE FROM SMITH TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND REVOKE DEATH SENTENCES ON CAPTURED

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LIBERATION MOVEMENT FIGHTING ELEMENTS. THUS FAR, NONE OF

LIBERATION MOVEMENT MILITARY ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

2. BYATT ALSO NOTED THAT LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS FOR THE ANC WERE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH, BUT THAT THE BRITISH HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY WILL MOST PROBABLY BE POSTPONED. REASON IS THAT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT AS TO WHO WOULD ASSUME TOP LEADERSHIP. ANC IS ALSO PLANNING, BYATT SAID, TO NAME JAMES CHICKEREMA AS THEIR EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LUSAKA, REPLACING HERBERT CHITEPO AND JASON MOYA.

3. UK CONSULTATIONS WITH TANZANIANS, ZAMBIANS AND BOTSWANANS SCHEDULED FOR LAST WEEK HAVE BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO ABSENCE OF TANZANIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER. IN PASSING, BYATT NOTED THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE AND TANZANIANS HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN KEEPING BRITISH INFORMED AT DAR OF DEVELOPMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ANC AND RHODESIANS.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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